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La Porte Police prepare for drunk drivers with 'No Refusal' weekend

By: Florian Martin

With area rodeo events scheduled for the final weekend of September, the La Porte Police Department is preparing for a potential increase in the number of intoxicated drivers operating along local roadways. The department is taking proactive steps by hosting its fourth 'No Refusal' DWI campaign on Friday, Sept. 30. Sgt. John Krueger, public relations officer for LPPD, said 'No Refusal' operations have been one of the many tools credited in decreasing the number of drunk-driving incidents along area roadways.

Under the 'No Refusal' program, drivers arrested for DWI, are asked to provide a sample of their breath and/or blood. Should the suspected offender refuse, officers will have a Harris County District Attorney on site to draft a search warrant in order to obtain a sample. A La Porte municipal judge will also be present at La Porte's police station to validate the warrant. This validation process ultimately allows for the collection of a specimen by a representative from Bayshore Hospital and gives officers and prosecutors the physical evidence needed to successfully convict drunk drivers, Krueger said.

To maximize police enforcement efforts, several additional La Porte officers will be assigned specifically to DWI patrol duty, while Harris County Pct. 8 and members of the Texas Department of Public Safety will also be in the area looking for drunk drivers. Outside agencies making their DWI arrests during the 'No Refusal' program will bring those offenders to the La Porte Police Department for their processing as well. "This is especially pleasing, as every additional, targeted, arrest made in and around the La Porte area keeps the same offender from driving along the shared roadways within our neighboring communities and thus prevents these offenders from causing additional harm," Krueger said.

Krueger said he expects the campaign to be equally productive as previous events. During the previous year, LPPD registered a significant increase of more than 50 percent in DWI arrests. "The increase is believed to have been due, in large part, to the proactive efforts such as DWI 'No Refusal' nights as well as other, more focused, efforts designed to apprehend those who choose to drink and drive," Krueger said. "Members of the La Porte Police Department sincerely desire for their citizens to experience the safest weekends possible," he said. "Therefore, LPPD continues to promote the very same message being promoted state-wide: If you drink and drive, you will go to jail."

For questions about La Porte PD's 'No Refusal Weekend,' you can contact the agency at 281-471-2141.